

1333 N.W. Eastman Parkway | Gresham, OR 97030

The Honorable Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

The City of Gresham strongly supports SB 327, which would restore a meaningful recreation immunity for cities. Recreational immunity is a critical necessity for cities to be able to provide meaningful, free recreational opportunities for their residents, improving public health and livability. SB 327 restores this immunity, which has long been considered part of the status quo, until the recent Oregon Supreme Court decision.

But for this immunity, cities would not be able to provide recreational parks, trails, and public spaces because the potential liability would dramatically increase insurance rates, requiring harmful cuts from other critical city functions, like public safety services. SB 327 ensures that the public can have both solid and reliable public safety services and excellent public recreational opportunities.

Once again, SB 327 restores the ability of public agencies to provide public recreational spaces, reaffirming what has long been believed to be the law of the land, and the Legislature's initial intent. The Gresham City Council has prioritized this issue on its Legislative Priorities for the 2017 session, and strongly encourages passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,



Eric Chambers
Government Relations Director